



Science Toolkit: Grade 6 Objective 3.F.1.a

Student Handout: Science: Grade 6 Objective 3.F.1.a

Standard 3.0 Life Science

Topic F. Ecology

Indicator 1. Give reasons supporting the fact that the number of organisms an environment can support depends on the physical conditions and resources available.

Objective a. Explain that populations increase or decrease relative to the availability of resources and the conditions of the environment.

Selected Response (SR) Item

Question

Bald eagles are found in and near desert, mountain, freshwater, and marine environments throughout the United States. Bald eagles build huge nests that are usually in treetops, near areas of water. The main food source for bald eagles is fish, but the birds sometimes eat other small animals. In 1967, the bald eagle was listed as an endangered species by the Environmental Protection Agency. The widespread use of DDT was responsible for the decline in the number of eagles. DDT, a chemical commonly used to control mosquitoes, caused thinning of the eagle egg shells.

The data table below shows how the population of breeding pairs of bald eagles has changed over a 12-year period in several states.

BREEDING PAIRS OF BALD EAGLES BY STATE

State	Year 1	Year 3	Year 6	Year 9	Year 12
Maryland	123	154	201	260	319
Massachusetts	5	9	10	11	12
Michigan	174	246	287	334	405
Nebraska	0	2	10	13	29
Nevada	0	0	0	2	1

Which statement best explains why habitats in Michigan and Maryland support more breeding pairs than habitats in other states?

- A. Cropland provides grain for food.
- B. Large lakes and rivers provide food.
- C. Mountains provide fewer places to hunt.
- D. Grasslands provide homes for large animals.

Correct Answer

B. Large lakes and rivers provide food.

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